



# Hand Saw Safety

West Virginia University  
Environmental Health and Safety



## Hand-Saw Precautions

- Inspect hand saws for defects such as splintered or cracked handles, missing saw-blade teeth, loose saw-blade connections, and bent saw blades or frame handles.
- Notify supervisor and remove from service any hand saw that fails pre-use inspection by attaching a red tag that states “OUT OF SERVICE.” Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- Wear eye protection when using a hand saw.
- Do not test saw teeth on hands or fingers to determine whether a hand saw is sharp.
- Carry a hand saw by its handle with the saw end pointed down.
- Use the proper type of hand saw for the material to be cut or type of cut to be made. For example, use a rip hand-saw for cutting along the grain of the wood and a cross-cut hand-saw for cutting across the grain of the wood.
- Select the correct type of hacksaw blade for the type of material to be cut.
- Inspect the wood stock for nails, knots, or imperfections in the wood that could damage the hand saw.
- Begin cutting by starting carefully and slowly to prevent the saw blade from jumping or binding.
- Place stock in vise or hold stock firmly when sawing. Use a helper or bench to support long stock.
- Use the length of the blade during each saw stroke.
- Do not cut limbs or branches above your head and use your free hand to hold the limb or branch while sawing.
- Keep all hand-saw blades sharp and clean.
- Keep hacksaw blades lightly oiled.
- Return hand-saw to its assigned storage place.

